

**Auchengreoch Avenue, Johnstone:  
Archaeological Evaluation,**

Data Structure Report

by Douglas Gordon

issued 29<sup>th</sup> October 2010



**Rathmell**

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Archaeology Ltd

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Date .....

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Checked .....

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## Overview

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for CDP Architects in respect of a proposed residential development at Auchengreoch Avenue, Johnstone (Ref: 09/0895/PP). The archaeological works are designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
2. Renfrewshire Council required a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken as a requirement of the granted planning consent. The West of Scotland Archaeology Service, who advise Renfrewshire Council on archaeological matters, has provided guidance on the structure of the archaeological works that were required for this site during development works.
3. Rathmell Archaeology Limited was appointed by CDP Architects Ltd to undertake the development and implementation of archaeological mitigation works during the initial stages of development works at Auchengreoch Avenue, Johnstone. This Data Structure Report provides the detail of the intrusive evaluation works designed to enable the development of the mitigation from the build and hence the direct physical impact on buried sediments.

## Archaeological and Historical Background

4. The development area at Auchengreoch Avenue, Johnstone is currently an area of park or garden in the midst of modern houses. The site is situated to the south-west of the grounds of Johnstone High School. The urban centre of Milliken Park with its accompanying railway station exists to the north-west with the larger urban centre of Johnstone further to the north-east.
5. The primary trigger for the archaeological works is that the development area has been closely identified with the site of Cochrane Tower noted in a description of Renfrewshire (Macfarlane 1907). According to the description it was in part still standing in 1782, one of its vaults being used as a cart-house. However, by 1837 all upstanding remains of the original structure had been removed.
6. The modern structure of Cochrane Tower which exists on the site is identified as a snecked rubble "miniature keep" at or very near the site of Cochrane Castle. The construction of this structure is dated to 1896 however it incorporates an armorial panel dated to 1592.
7. Examination of cartographic sources adds little to the information provided above. William Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (1747-55) (Figure 1a) shows the approximate area of the proposed development works occupied by Cochrane Castle, however, examination of the buildings depicted suggests a farm with outlying buildings in the midst of land under cultivation. Several other unnamed farms are depicted in the immediately surrounding area.
8. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey (1858) (Figure 1b) map of the area shows the "Site of Cochrane Tower" depicted to the west of Cochrane Field and Cochrane Place Well. The site appears to be wooded but no structures are depicted.

## References

Macfarlane, W., 1906-8, *Geographical collections relating to Scotland*, in Mitchell, A and Clark, J T 3v Edinburgh

Ordnance Survey, 1858, Renfrewshire

Roy, 1747-55, Military Survey of Scotland



Figure 1a: Roy, 1747-55, Military Survey of Scotland



Figure 1b: Ordnance Survey, 1858, Renfrewshire

## Project Works

9. An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2010, through the excavation by machine of six trenches in order to examine approximately 8% of the proposed development area (Figure 3). The trenches were largely placed in accordance with the terms of the Written Scheme of Investigation (Matthews 2010), though the alignments of some had to be altered slightly to avoid large tree stumps and built garden features. In all 96m linear meters of trenching was excavated (154m<sup>2</sup>), exceeding the 144m<sup>2</sup> required.
10. All works were conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

## Findings

11. A total of six trenches were opened across the development site (Figure 3). Full descriptions of each are contained in the appendices at the end of this report. Included below is a synthesis of the findings and interpretation from these trenches.
12. The site was bounded by mature trees on its northern half with a new build house to the east and 'The Redhouse' a residential care facility to the southwest. The site was level and appears to have been part of a large landscaped garden associated with 'The Redhouse' with two raised stone built flower beds and a red brick built pond present. A concrete structural base was also present on the south-eastern edge of the site.
13. All the trenches were excavated to the archaeologically sterile natural soil (002-006,008-010, 013-014). The natural soil was clay, ranging in colour from yellow to brown/black (See Appendix 1 and Appendix 2: Context Register). The topsoil across the site (001) ranged between 250 and 490mm in depth, though typically it was no deeper than 350mm, modern building and general detritus was observed within this context.
14. Any potentially significant archaeological features were investigated and recorded according to the terms of the Written Scheme of Investigation (Matthews 2010). However, after investigation the only features uncovered in the course of the evaluation works could be attributed to modern use of the site as a garden. Bioturbation was evident in some trenches, primarily in the form of tree roots from the mature trees within the garden.
15. Three features in total were uncovered and investigated [007], [011] and [015]. [007] and [011] were both linear features, which had topsoil fill with modern white glaze pottery present. A half inch metal water pipe was also present within linear [011]. [015] was a pit measuring 1m by 0.6m within the trench, that had a topsoil fill with cinder, slag and modern white glazed pottery present.





Figure 2a: Trench 2



Figure 2b: Trench 4

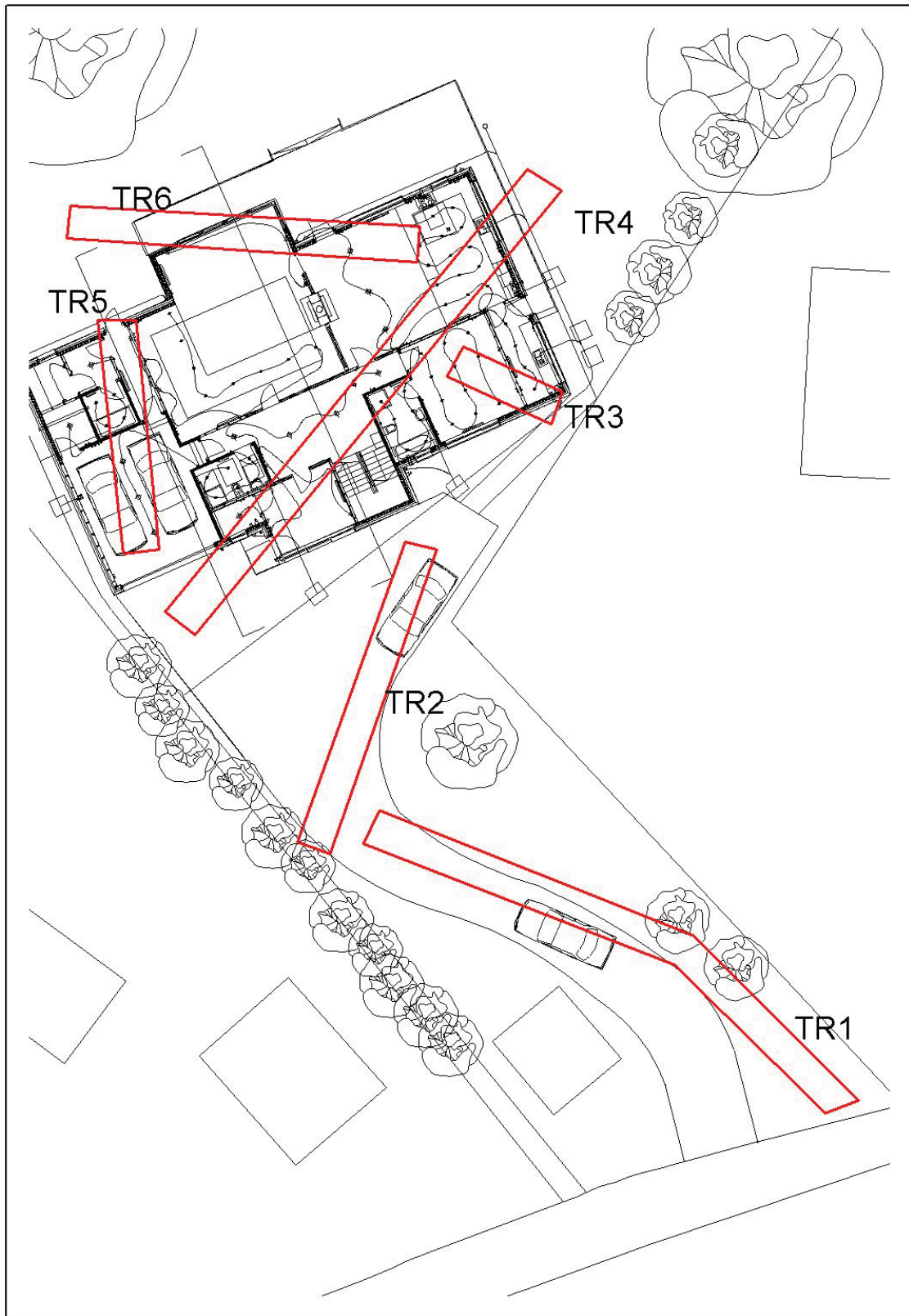


Figure 3: Trench Layout (as machined)



## Discussion

16. No significant archaeological remains or artefacts were uncovered in the course of the evaluation works. A limited quantity of anthropic material was uncovered, but all this material was modern in origin and related to the use of the ground as a garden.
17. The three features that were uncovered all appeared not to be of great antiquity, the purpose of the linear [007] was uncertain though given the presence of modern pottery within the fill would indicate a modern date of origin. Linear [011] is a service trench for the metal water pipe which may have been for feeding the red brick pond. The pit feature [015] would appear to contain the refuse from a fire; there was no evidence of the fire having been *in situ*.
18. Both the features and artifactual evidence are all indicative of modern use of the site as part of a large landscaped garden, no evidence of the old Cochrane Tower or associated defensive ditch or moat were present.
19. Given the presence of building and general modern detritus within the topsoil in conjunction with existence of large garden features, such as raised garden beds and a pond, it may be that the site has been heavily landscaped over time and any archaeological remains that may have existed have been scoured away.

## Recommendations

20. No significant archaeological remains were located within the development area. On balance, given the lack of significant archaeological material recovered in the course of the evaluation works, Rathmell Archaeology Ltd recommends that no further archaeological work be carried out within this development area. In addition, due to the convincingly modern nature of all of the archaeology exposed we recommend that there is no value in post-excavation analysis of any of the material recovered.
21. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with Renfrewshire Council and their advisors, West of Scotland Archaeology Service.

## Conclusion

22. A programme of archaeological works was required by CDP Architects Ltd in respect of the residential development on Auchengreoch Avenue, Johnstone. The archaeological works were designed to mitigate the impact on the archaeological remains within the development area. Specifically to try to identify the survival if any of the remains of Cochrane Tower and associated defensive features.
23. The archaeological investigative works consisted of an intrusive evaluation which was designed to assess an 8% sample of the proposed development area. All of the trenches excavated reached archaeologically sterile natural soil and all potential archaeological features were examined. No evidence of Cochrane Tower and associated defensive ditch were uncovered, all features uncovered in the evaluation works related to the modern use of the site as a garden.

## References

SOEnv, 1994, *Planning Advice Note 42, Archaeology*, Scottish Office Environmental Department.

Matthews, A., 2010, *Auchengreoch Avenue: Archaeological Evaluation, Written Scheme of Investigation*, Rathmell Archaeology Ltd

Ordnance Survey, 1858, Renfrewshire

Roy, 1747-55, Military Survey of Scotland

## Appendix 1: Trench Details

Within this appendix a standardised set of data pertaining to the evaluation trenches is presented.

All measurement distances quoted along the trench measure based on the quoted orientation of the trench. See Figure 2 for trench locations.

Trench	Orientation	Size	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
01	Southeast to Northwest, East to West	22.1m by 1.6m  35.36m <sup>2</sup>	350 to 450mm	Light Brown silty clay (002) from 0m until +7.6m and 16m to 22.1m. Mottled mid brown and orange silty clay (003) from +7.6m until +16m	None	None	None
02	Southwest to Northeast	15.6m by 1.6m  24.96m <sup>2</sup>	300 to 420mm	Dark brown/Black silty clay (006) from 0m to 0.7m. Light Brown silty clay (002) from +0.7m until +15.6m.	Linear feature aligned NW to SE 1.2m wide and 0.1m deep, with a mid brown silty clay fill.	None	None
03	Southeast to Northwest	5.5m by 1.6m  8.8m <sup>2</sup>	250 to 300mm	Light brown and Orange silty clay (008)	None	None	None
04	Northeast to Southwest	27m by 1.6m  43.2m <sup>2</sup>	350 to 420mm	Light brown orange clay (009) from 0m to +2.8m and +4.6m to +6.6m. Light Brown, mottled orange and purple clay (010) from +2.8m to +4.6m. Light Brown silty clay (002) from +6.6m until +27m	Linear feature aligned NW to SE 0.26m wide with a metal water pipe within its fill	None	None
05	South to North	10.7m by 1.6m	300 to 490mm	Mid to Dark brown mottled orange purple sandy silt (013) with	None	None	None

Trench	Orientation	Size	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Character	Modern Features	Significant Features	Artefacts
		17.12m <sup>2</sup>		very frequent small to medium angular stones from 0m to +4.2m. Light brown clay (014) from +4.2m to +10.7m			
06	West to East	16.2m by 1.6m  26m <sup>2</sup>	300 to 400mm	Light brown clay (014) from 0m to +16.2m	Irregular semi circle within the trench at +1.2m measuring 1m by 0.7m with a mid brown clay silt fill with modern pottery, cinder and poss slag material	None	None

## Appendix 2: Registers

Within this appendix are all registers pertaining to works on-site regardless of the process by which that information was gathered (e.g. evaluation or strip, map & sample).

### *Context Register*

<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Area/ Trench</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
001	1, 2	Deposit	Very Dark Brown/Black silty clay, with very frequent CBM, tree roots and frequent large boulders	Topsoil
002	1,2, 4	Deposit	Light brown silty clay with frequent small to medium sized angular stones	Natural
003	1	Deposit	Mid brown/ mottled orange silty clay, with frequent small to medium sized angular stones and rare sandstone fragments	Natural
004	1	Deposit	Orange and Gray clay with very frequent small to medium sized angular stones	Natural
005	1	Deposit	Mixed mid brown, purple and orange clay silt with frequent small to medium sized stones	Natural
006	2	Deposit	Dark Brown/Black silt clay with occasional small to medium sized angular stones	Natural
007	2	Deposit	Linear feature 1.2m wide and 0.1m deep with a mid brown silt clay with frequent small to medium sized angular stones, frequent roots and modern white glazed pottery	Modern linear feature
008	3	Deposit	Very light brown orange silty clay with occasional rootlets and small to medium sized angular stones	Natural
009	4	Deposit	Very light brown orange clay with occasional small to medium sized angular stones	Natural
010	4	Deposit	Very light brown, mottled orange and purple clay with occasional large roots	Natural
011	4	Deposit	Linear feature aligned NW-SE 0.26m wide with a mid brown silty clay fill and a metal pipe	Modern service trench

<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Area/ Trench</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
012	4	Deposit	Concrete	Concrete and red brick base for a structure
013	5	Deposit	Mid brown mottled orange and purple small to medium sized angular stones in a sandy silt matrix	Natural
014	5, 6	Deposit	Light brown clay frequent small to medium sized stones	Natural
015	6	Deposit	Irregular semi circular in plan with a mid brown silt clay with frequent cinder, slag and modern white glaze pottery	Probable modern pit



*Photographic Register*

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
1	1	1			1	Trench 1	E	15/10/10
2	1	2				Trench 1	E	15/10/10
3	1	3	1	1	2	Trench 2	SW	15/10/10
4	1	4	1	2	3	Shot of 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Tower	NW	15/10/10
5	1	5	1	3	4	Trench 3	SE	15/10/10
6	1	6	-	-	5	Trench 4	NE	15/10/10
7	1	7	1	4	6	Trench 5	E	15/10/10
8	1	8	1	5	7	Trench 6	N	15/10/10
9					8	General Site Shot	NNW	15/10/10
10					9	General Site Shot	NNW	15/10/10
11					10	General Site Shot	WNW	15/10/10
12					11	Shot of upstanding rockery	W	15/10/10
13					12	Shot of upstanding rockery	W	15/10/10
14					13	Shot of upstanding rockery	W	15/10/10
15					14	Shot of upstanding rockery	W	15/10/10
16					15	Shot of upstanding rockery	N	15/10/10
17					16	Shot of upstanding rockery	N	15/10/10
18					17	Shot of upstanding rockery	E	15/10/10
19					18	Shot of upstanding rockery	E	15/10/10
20					19	Shot of upstanding rockery		15/10/10
21	1	9			20	Shot of 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Tower	S	15/10/10
22	1	10			21	Close up of Armorial Panel	S	15/10/10

Image No.	Print		Slide		Digital	Description	From	Date
	Film No.	Neg. No.	Film No.	Neg. No.				
23	1	11			22	General Site Shot of Trenches backfilled	W	15/10/10
24	1	12			23	General Site Shot of Trenches backfilled	W	15/10/10
25	1	13			24	General Site Shot of Trenches backfilled	W	15/10/10
26	1	14			25	Shot of 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Tower	N	15/10/10

*Drawing Register*

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/ Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description	Drawer	Date
1	1		Plan	1:100	Plan of Trench 1	DiG	15/10/10
2	1		Plan	1:100	Plan of Trench 2	DiG	15/10/10
3	1		Plan	1:100	Plan of Trench 3	DiG	15/10/10
4	1		Plan	1:100	Plan of Trench 4	DiG	15/10/10
5	1		Plan	1:100	Plan of Trench 5	DiG	15/10/10
6	1		Plan	1:100	Plan of Trench 6	DiG	15/10/10

## Appendix 3: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Renfrewshire Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Auchengreoch Avenue, Johnstone
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	RA10055
<b>PARISH:</b>	Paisley
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Douglas Gordon
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Evaluation
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	None
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NS 418 615
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> October 2010
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> October 2010
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (may include information from other fields)	<p>A programme of archaeological works was required by CDP Architects Ltd in respect of the residential development on Auchengreoch Avenue, Johnstone.</p> <p>The archaeological investigative works consisted of an intrusive evaluation which was designed to assess an 8% sample of the proposed development area. All of the trenches excavated reached archaeologically sterile natural soil and all potential archaeological features were examined. All features uncovered in the evaluation works related to the modern use of the site. The eastern boundary of the site contained sufficient depths of made ground to ensure that this area could only be partially examined.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	CDP Architects Ltd
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
<b>E MAIL:</b>	contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	Report to West of Scotland Archaeology Service and archive to National Monuments Record of Scotland.

## Contact Details

24. Rathmell Archaeology can be contacted at our Registered Office or through the web:
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25. The West of Scotland Archaeology Service can be contacted at their office or through the web:
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